

Appl. No. 10/531,267  
Amtd. dated January 23, 2008  
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2007

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-25 have been canceled.

Claims 26-43 are pending in the application.

Claims 9-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has corrected the narrative claim language in the rewritten claims 26-36. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 9-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 8811252 to Kracht in view of US Patent No. 5,468,130 to Yamada et al is respectfully requested.

Claim 26 is directed to a gear pump, comprising:

a housing (10, 12) encompassing a pump chamber (14);

two rotating gear wheels (16, 18) disposed in the pump chamber (14) of the housing (10, 12), ***the two gear wheels made of sintered steel;***

***bearing means disposed in the pump chamber*** of the housing supporting the two rotating gear wheels, the bearing means embodied by at least one bearing part (13, 21, 23, 24, 26) of the housing, wherein the housing is comprised of a lightweight aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and ***wherein the at least one bearing part (13, 21, 23, 24, 26) is provided with a coating (50) of a nickel alloy, which surface of the coating (50) has a substantially plane microstructure.***

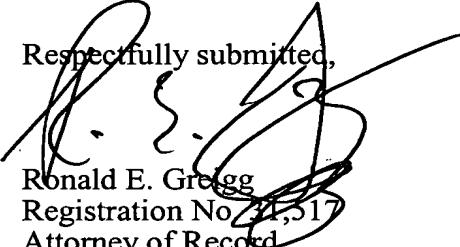
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Kracht discloses the basic elements of a gear pump, including gear wheels (40, 50), housing (10, 20), bearing journals (80), and wall (60, 70). However, Kracht fails to disclose the housing being made of lightweight aluminum having a coating of a nickel alloy.

The examiner relies on Yamada to teach a nickel alloy coating on an aluminum surface to reduce wear. Even if the combination of Kracht and Yamada were to be appropriate, the resulting device is lacking in some of the recited feature of claim 26.

Neither Kracht nor Yamada, whether taken alone or combined, show or suggest the combination of the gear wheels of sintered steel, and a nickel coating of the housing. Furthermore, neither reference discloses that the bearing means is disposed in the pump chamber of the housing, as recited by claim 26.

Accordingly, it appears that the current claims are distinguishable over the references. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

  
Respectfully submitted,  
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